

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, wherein the side wall has a slight taper on the inner surface to enable release from the male mould.

8. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, including a marginal taper on the inner surface at the open end to act as a lead-in for the paper roll.

9. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, including a base and wherein the base is inwardly biased.

10. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, including a base and wherein the base is inwardly dishd in order to provide a bias against loading as the paper roll filter media is being pressed into the canister.

11. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, including a base and wherein the base has an inner surface with radially extending flow passages separated by lands, the lands defining a supporting surface to evenly distribute and support the paper roll filter media across the base of the

canister to provide secondary flow passages across the base of the canister.

12-25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, wherein the ribs are formed by corresponding grooves in the male mould member, the grooves being spaced so that as the canister is progressively slid off the male mould member the ribs do not all encounter grooves at the same time.

27. (currently amended) A filter element comprising:

a rigid injection moulded generally cylindrical canister formed about a male mould member, the canister having an internal diameter, an open end and a side wall, the side wall having an outer surface and an inner surface; and

a paper roll as filter media,

wherein at least five spaced anti-tracking ribs project from the inner surface of the side wall a distance sufficient to enable the canister to be removed from the male mould member during a moulding process and while still sufficiently flexible, at least five of said [[the]] ribs being unevenly spaced such that there is a ~~different~~ unique distance between every two immediately adjacent ribs,

the paper roll has a marginally greater diameter than the internal diameter of the canister prior to insertion into the canister, and

the canister is sufficiently rigid and the paper roll is sufficiently tightly wound that the paper roll, when inserted into the canister using a press, is substantially compressed to the internal diameter of the canister without distortion of the canister.

28. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, wherein adjacent ribs are spaced by a rib spacing, the rib spacing varying along the inner surface for each two adjacent ribs.

29. (currently amended) A filter element comprising:
a substantially cylindrical canister having an open end, a side wall having an outer surface and an inner surface that defines an internal diameter of the canister, and a base having an axially extending annular projection adjacent said side wall so that an annular channel is defined by said side wall and said annular projection, said inner surface having at least five plural axially spaced anti-tracking ribs projecting radially inward, at least five of said ribs being unevenly spaced such that there is a unique distance between every two immediately adjacent ribs; and

a paper roll filter media, the paper roll filter media having a first diameter greater than the internal diameter of the canister when the paper roll filter media is outside the canister and a second diameter substantially the same as the internal

diameter of the canister so that the paper roll filter media contacts said inner surface between an adjacent two of said plural axially spaced anti-tracking ribs without distortion of the canister when the paper roll filter media is inserted into the canister.

30. (previously presented) The filter element as claimed in claim 29, wherein said plural ribs number eight.

31. (previously presented) The filter element as claimed in claim 30 wherein said plural ribs are unevenly spaced.

32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) The filter element as claimed in claim 29 wherein said inner surface further comprises an annular outward chamfer at said open end.

34. (previously presented) The filter element as claimed in claim 33 wherein said outer surface has an outward facing annular rib at said open end.

35. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 27, wherein the spaced anti-tracking ribs project from the inner surface of the side wall a distance of between 1 to 2 mm.

36. (previously presented) The filter element according to claim 35, wherein the ribs project about 1.5 mm from the inner surface of the canister.

37. (new) A filter element according to claim 27, wherein the canister further comprises a base having an axially extending annular projection adjacent said side wall so that an annular channel is defined by said side wall and said annular projection,

wherein the paper roll filter media contacts said inner surface between an adjacent two of said plural axially spaced anti-tracking ribs without distortion of the canister when the paper roll filter media is inserted into the canister.

38. (new) A filter element according to claim 27, wherein at least five of said ribs being unevenly spaced such that there is a pair of medially located ribs having a distance between them that is greater than the distance between every two immediately adjacent ribs.

39. (new) A filter element according to claim 27, wherein the canister further comprises a base having an axially extending annular projection adjacent said side wall so that an annular channel is defined by said side wall and said annular projection, said ribs being unevenly spaced such that there is a pair of medially located ribs having a distance between them that is greater than the distance between every two immediately adjacent ribs; and

said paper roll filter media contacts said inner surface between an adjacent two of said plural axially spaced

anti-tracking ribs without distortion of the canister when the paper roll filter media is inserted into the canister.